

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method of improving smoothness during hand-washing of an item to be washed, comprising the step of hand-washing the item with a washing liquid under conditions where an organic polymer having spinnability is present in the washing liquid, wherein said organic polymer has an average molecular weight of 2,500,000 or more, and comprises units derived from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-acrylamide-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, and styrenesulfonic acid and a salt thereof.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A process for hand-washing comprising the step of hand-washing an item to be washed with a washing liquid showing spinnability comprising an organic polymer having spinnability, or with a washing liquid prepared by diluting the washing liquid with more than 1-fold to 1,000-fold amount of water, wherein said organic polymer has an average molecular weight of 2,500,000 or more, and comprises units derived from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-acrylamide-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, and styrenesulfonic acid and a salt thereof.

Claim 4 (Original): The process according to claim 3, wherein the washing liquid has a pH of 9.0 or more.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A detergent composition for improving smoothness, comprising an organic polymer having spinnability having an average molecular weight of

~~1,500,000 2,500,000~~ or more in an amount exceeding 0.1% by weight of the detergent composition, wherein said organic polymer comprises units derived from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-acrylamide-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, and styrenesulfonic acid and a salt thereof.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The detergent composition according to claim 5, wherein the detergent composition comprises:

- (a) ~~said [[an]] organic polymer having spinnability having an average molecular weight of 1,500,000 or more in an amount exceeding 0.1% by weight;~~
- (b) a surfactant;
- (c) an alkalizing agent; and
- (d) a metal ion capturing agent.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The detergent composition according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, wherein the detergent composition is in a powdery form or granular form.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The detergent composition according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 8~~ claim 5, further comprising an inorganic salt capable of releasing hydrogen peroxide in water, wherein the inorganic salt is contained in an amount of 15% by weight or less of the detergent composition.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A laundry detergent composition comprising a polymer having an average molecular weight of ~~500,000~~ 2,500,000 or more, wherein 60% by mole or more of ~~constituting monomers has a sulfonic acid group or a salt form thereof, or a sulfuric acid group or a salt form thereof~~ said polymer comprises units derived from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-acrylamide-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, and styrenesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, wherein the laundry detergent composition is in a powdery form or granular form.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The laundry detergent composition according to claim 10 [[or 11]], wherein the detergent composition comprises:

- (a') a polymer having an average molecular weight of ~~500,000~~ 2,500,000 or more, wherein 60% by mole or more of constituting monomers has a sulfonic acid group or a salt form thereof, or sulfuric acid group or a salt form thereof;
- (b) a surfactant;
- (c) an alkalizing agent; and
- (d) a metal ion capturing agent.

Claims 13-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A creamy smoothness improver comprising a polymer having an average molecular weight of ~~500,000~~ 2,500,000 or more, wherein 60% by mole or more of ~~constituting monomers have a sulfonic acid group or a salt form thereof, or a sulfuric acid group or a salt form thereof~~ said polymer comprises units derived from one or

more monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-acrylamide-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, and styrenesulfonic acid and a salt thereof, wherein the laundry detergent composition is in a powdery form or granular form.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A process comprising [[for]] washing an item by hands to be washed with the laundry detergent composition as defined in claim 10.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A process comprising [[for]] washing an item by hands to be washed with the creamy smoothness improver as defined in claim 17.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 7, 11, 13-16 and 18 have been canceled.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 10 and 17 have been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 13 therein and by inserting that the organic polymer having spinnability has an average molecular weight of 2,500,000 or more, as supported in the specification at paragraph [0080].

Claims 6 and 12 have been amended to be consistent with this amendment. Claim 10 has been additionally amended to recite that the laundry detergent composition is in a powdery form or granular form, as supported by Claim 8. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to recite that the process is --hand-- washing, as supported by Claim 3. Finally, all multiple dependencies have been eliminated.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12, 17 and 19-20 are now pending in the application.